THE POWER OF POETRY
APRIL 2007

You can work a 8-hour shift without spirit, but it ain't half worth much, you know?

Barbara Presnell

Poem-making is a way to reclaim your truth, your feelings, and your voice. Through writing, you can become a voice for mending the world, a voice that is so called for at this time.

John Fox

Your body rids itself of what you swallow,
But what you breathe, you keep.

Sarah Lindsay

The safest way to avoid the world is through art; and the safest way to be linked to the world is through art.

Randall Jarrell

Pain comes in many colors, this morning's green as blouse silk, blush as my cheek brushed by your lips, red as my unkissed smile. I'm blue.

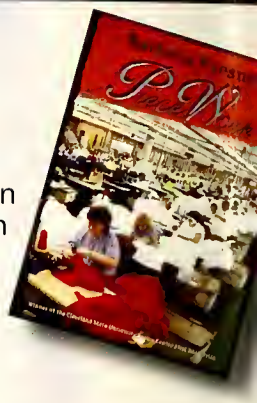
Carolyn Beard Whitlow

Sing! Sing your song, girl. Bring in the coming of this new day of golden ray and brilliant light. Sing the song that washes past regrets and persecutions away.

Glenis Redmond

Featured Events

Barbara Presnell Reads From Piece Work • **Wednesday • April 18 • 5:30 – 7 pm**
Presented in partnership with the Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art as part of its **Textile Monuments** exhibit on display March 10 - April 28. Poet Barbara Presnell grew up in Asheboro, North Carolina, where her father was production superintendent of a locally-owned textile manufacturing company. She received the Linda Flowers Prize from The North Carolina Humanities Council for a collection of poems written in the voices of mill workers from a fictional plant in the Piedmont. Former North Carolina Poet Laureate Fred Chappell will introduce Barbara, who will sign copies of her new book after the reading. • **Green Hill Center For North Carolina Art • 200 N Davie Street • 333-7460**



Step Sisters: A Poetic Dialogue on Race & Womanhood
Featuring Glenis Redmond and Patricia Starek. Enjoy this lively dialogue about womanhood, friendship and race through the language of two performance poets. They carry you from the streets of New York into their grandmothers' kitchens.
• Thursday • April 19 • Noon - 1 pm Koury Auditorium • GTCC • Jamestown Campus • 334-4822
&
• Thursday • April 19 • 7 pm
• Greensboro Historical Museum
• 130 Summit Avenue • 373-3636

Josephus Thompson & Members of The Collective
Friday • April 20 • 7:30 pm • Broach Theatre • 520 S Elm Street • 378-9300

Poetry Guaranteed To Make You Laugh (or At Least Make You Smile A Lot) Featuring Fred Chappell • **Sunday • April 29 • 3 - 4:30 pm**
A sampler of humorous poetry by local poets including Mark Smith-Soto, Clement Mallory, Sarah Lindsay, Carolyn Beard Whitlow, Valerie Nieman, Christine Garren, Chris Fox and Ann Deagon. • **Greensboro Historical Museum • 130 Summit Avenue • 373-3636**

www.poetrygso.org

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www.greensborolibrary.org

For more info or to get involved with Poetry GSO 2007
email: steve.sumerford@greensboro-nc.gov or call 373-3636.

Featured Events

International Poetry Night **• Tuesday • April 10 • 7:30 - 9 pm**
Join us for our 4th annual celebration of poetry and music from around the globe. Bring a poem to share in any language you choose! **• Glenwood Library • 1901 W. Florida Street • 297-5000**

Hear Hillsborough poet Andrea Selch **• Wednesday • April 11 • Noon**
Her latest collection ***Startling*** was described by Alan Shapiro as a "fabulous, wise, funny, somber book, a book to cherish." Co-sponsored with the UNCG Women's & Gender Studies Program. **• Foust 206 • UNCG Campus • 373-3617**

The Poetry of Gil Scott-Heron **• Saturday • April 14 • 4 pm**
Enjoy a film featuring poet/musician Gil Scott-Heron. Sponsored by the Hemphill Branch African-American Literature Club. **Hemphill Branch Library • 2301 W. Vandalia Road • 373-2925**

Urban Poetry Workshop **• Saturday • April 21 • 3:30 pm**
This workshop for adults will be presented by spoken word artist Clement Mallory. A fun, interactive session of activities involving poetry. Door prizes will be given. **Benjamin Branch Library • 1530 Benjamin Parkway • 373-7540**

Poetry & The Vietnam War **• Saturday • April 21 • 3 pm**
View a brief film on the Vietnam War and discuss poems written by troops on duty and others relating to the war. **• Hemphill Branch Library • 2301 W. Vandalia Road • Call 373-2925** or visit the branch to obtain copies of the poems that will be discussed.

Local Voices **• Sunday • April 22 • 3:30 pm**
Everyone is invited to share a favorite poem and listen to others share. The selections can be either original works or favorite poems. **Vance Chavis Branch Library • 900 S. Benbow Road • 373-5838**

Calling for a Poetry Surge **• Saturday • April 28 • 2 pm**
Poetry open-mic/spoken word performance, featuring Introvert Creative Group. **• Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library • 1420 Price Park Road • 373-2923**

High School Poet Laureates **• Sunday • April 15 • 3 pm**
Join us for a poetry reading with the High School Poet Laureates. The Poet Laureates have been chosen through poetry contests which were held at each high school. Three semi-finalists were selected from each school. Their works were judged, and one finalist was awarded the title of Poet Laureate of his or her school. **• Greensboro Historical Museum •130 Summit Avenue • 373-3636**

Poetry of Death and Dying: One Couple's Story **• Monday • April 23 • 5:30 - 7 pm**
Dr. Elias Georges Abu-Saba, beloved by many in Greensboro, died in September 2006. In the last months of his life, Elias wrote poems reflecting his response to his cancer diagnosis, the progress of his disease, his thoughts about those around him including family and health care professionals, and about the world he would be leaving behind. This program will feature video clips of Elias reading his poetry six days before he died as well as readings from his poetry by others. His widow, Mary, will briefly discuss her life since her husband died and will read one of the poems she has written about her journey.
Nussbaum Room • Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2471

Rhiannon Giddens
& Lalenja Giddens Harrington

Tuesday • April 24 • 7 pm
Don't miss this unique performance that blends music and spoken word poetry. Lalenja has sung with the a capella group, The Princeton Tigerlilies, and has spent time on the slam poetry scene, performing on a national level. Rhiannon sings opera, blues, Celtic, Appalachian folk & spirituals. Recently Rhiannon was a featured singer and musician in Triad Stage's highly acclaimed musical, ***Beautiful Star***. Both sisters perform with the ensemble Sankofa Strings. **• Nussbaum Room • Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2471**

Poetry & Healing

For centuries, on all continents of the Earth, people have turned to poetry when they are in pain whether it be physical, emotional or spiritual. One theme for the 2007 Poetry GSO festival is "Poetry and Healing." There will be workshops, readings, films and discussions on the topic during the month of April. We are particularly excited that John Fox, one of the foremost experts on the topic in the nation, will be in town to lead some of these sessions. John is the author of ***Poetic Medicines*** and the founder of The Institute for Poetic Medicine, based in Palo Alto, CA. Also presenting on the topic of poetry and healing will be Jacinta White. In 2001, Jacinta founded the WORD project in Atlanta to give youth a platform for self-expression using poetry. Today the WORD project has relocated to North Carolina and in addition to working with urban youth, Jacinta now conducts poetry workshops for a variety of audiences.

Healing Words: Poetry & the Art of Medicine **• Monday • April 2 • 7 pm – 9 pm**
Don't miss the screening of ***Healing Words: Poetry & Medicine***, a documentary film that focuses on the applications of poetry and other arts within a hospital setting. Produced by Dr. David Watts, the film will be shown on PBS within the coming year. Following the film, there will be a discussion with John Fox, Beth Adamour and Jacinta White.
• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2471

The Spirit Can Still Fly : Poetry to Heal the Soul **• Sunday • April 22 • 3 pm**
Poetry Reading with the Arc Poetry Group and Lalenja Harrington.The Arc Poetry Group shares it's book, ***The Spirit Can Still Fly***, about the power of expression that lives within all of us. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event. A book signing will follow. The Arc of High Point is a non-profit agency that advocates with individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. **• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 433-7260**

Workshops

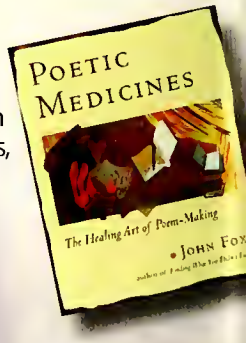
Photo Credit: Paula Leslie

John Fox

Jacinta White

All of the workshops listed below are free. Pre-registration is required. To register email beth.sheffield@greensboro-nc.gov or call 373-3617.

Poetic Medicines: The Healing Art of Poem - Making
Monday • April 2 • 10 am – 3 pm
In this interactive workshop, we will read poems by inspiring poets and explore writing exercises that tune us in to a variety of experiences including: the poetry of earth and spirit, the playfulness and power of language, responding to pain and challenges, a sense of community, and the blessing of common things.
• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street



Poetry as Healer, Healer as Poet **• Tuesday • April 3 • 2 – 5 pm**
This writing workshop is designed for anyone who works in the fields of healthcare, counseling, hospice, pastoral care and social work. CEU credit is available.
• Nussbaum Room • Central Library • 219 N. Church Street

Poems of Witness: Living with Heart in a Conflicted World **• Wednesday • April 4 • 10 am – 3 pm**
This workshop is designed to promote and encourage poem-making and sharing that shows the beauty and solace inherent in wrapping our heart's truth in words and images around the pain of dishonesty, injustice and the violations to our humanness. We will explore how deepening a connection with this awareness empowers us to treasure differences and stand together on common ground. Co-sponsored by The School of Health and Human Performance and The Department of Public Health Education.
• UNCG • Elliot University Center • Kirkland Room

Poetry and Healing **• Tuesday • April 24 • 7 pm**
Presented by Caren Masem. This workshop will address emotional healing and writing as a means of dealing with, not curing, physical pain. She will discuss stress and anxiety and will use poems by poets like Adrienne Rich and Mary Oliver. Light refreshments will be served.
• Benjamin Branch • 1520 Benjamin Parkway

www.poetrygso.org

Poetry GSO 2007 - Monday Night Poetry Series

Billy The Blogging Poet **• Monday • April 16 • 7 pm**
Featuring poet Billy Jones, aka "Billy The Blogging Poet," author of ***Carrot On A Stick: A Book About Everything, Well Almost Everythin*** and ***Cold Dry Biscuits: A Book About Everything Else... Sorta'.***. Billy The Blogging Poet "TM," is the founding editor of Poets101.com-- a part of the AltMedia101.com. An open mic will follow. You can read your own work or your favorite poem.
Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-3617

San Francisco Poet Yvonne Cannon **• Monday • April 23 • 7 pm**
Her collection, ***When This You See,*** includes poems directly motivated by what she experienced during her 48-year-old daughter's crushing struggle with cancer. Her telling descriptions and her sympathetic lines linger long after the book has been put down. An open mic will follow. You can read your own work or your favorite poem. **• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-3617**

Writing Out of Your Chakras: A Workshop With Val Nieman **• Monday • April 30 • 7 pm**
Like a colored vapor used to track the movements of air in a wind tunnel, there are many approaches to stimulating and shaping your writing. This workshop will explore the ancient Indian concept of chakras, or energy centers in the body. We'll talk about the method and meaning of chakras as they might be applied to understanding the self and the fictional creations of our work – as well as organizing poetry around certain concepts. To pre-register, send your name and phone number to Beth Sheffield through email: beth.sheffield@greensboro-nc.gov **• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-3617**

Poetry, Jazz & Java

Writers' Group of the Triad

The Writer's Group of the Triad and the Greensboro Public Library present the popular ***Poetry, Jazz & Java*** series, which features a variety of local poets and live music. Call 373-3636

Thursday • April 5 • 7 pm
The Green Bean • 1341 South Elm Street

Saturday • April 14 • 7 pm
The Tate Street Coffee House • 334 Tate Street

Saturday • April 21 • 2 pm
Carolina Coffee & Tea • 400 State Street

Thursday • April 26 • 7 pm
Renaissance Jazz Cafe • 117 North Greene Street

Monday • April 23 • 7 pm
Starbucks at Quaker Village • W. Friendly Avenue

Poetry GSO Slam

The Power of the Spoken Word: A Poetry GSO Slam
• Friday • April 27 • 7:30 - 9 pm
See slam poets compete for cash prizes. Hosted by Clement Mallory. Halftime entertainment by C37 Productions.
• Greensboro Historical Museum
• 130 Summit Avenue • 373-3636

The Charlotte Youth Spoken Word Initiative

Performance by The Charlotte Youth Spoken Word Initiative
Saturday • April 14 • 2 pm
Followed by an open mic session with teen spoken word poets lead by slam poet Terry Creech, a former slam master, professional wrestler & touring poet. Terry Creech was the coach, slammaster & co-founder of the SlamCharlotte team. **• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2471**

Poetry GSO 2007 - Children's Events

Get Your Rhyme On! **• Tuesday • April 3 • 3:30 pm**
Local teen poets will share their inspirations and techniques for writing poetry. For school-age children. **• Hemphill Branch • 2301 W. Vandalia Road • 373-2925**

Family Story Time Highlighting Poetry Month **• Tuesday • April 3 • 6:30 pm**
Central Library Children's Room • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046

Celebrate National Poetry Month **• Thursday • April 5 • 6:30 pm**
Are you a budding poet? Come and learn about poetry and have fun writing your very own poetry. Families invited. **• McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue • 373-5810**

Poetry Time **• Tuesday • April 10 • 4 - 5 pm**
Come and share your poems. This event is for school age children.
Children's Room • Central Library's • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046

Lines That Rhyme **• Wednesday • April 11 • 3:30 pm**
Develop an appreciation for poetry as we share from poetry anthologies, poetry books and poems from magazines. Create a folded poetry fan. For school-age children. **• McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue • 373-5810**

Poetry Fun 101: Diamante Poems **• Wednesday • April 11 • 3:30 pm**
Learn about this cool form of poetry and create the diamond-shaped poems as a group and on your own. **• Glenwood Branch • 1901 W. Florida Street • 297-5000**

Poetic Families **• Thursday • April 12 • 6:30 pm**
Families come to write poems together. Light refreshments. **• McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue • 373-5810**

Poetry Act One: How To Act Out Poetry **• Thursday • April 12 • 4 - 5 pm**
A workshop for older school age children presented by Clement Mallory.
Benjamin Branch • 1530 Benjamin Parkway • 373-7540

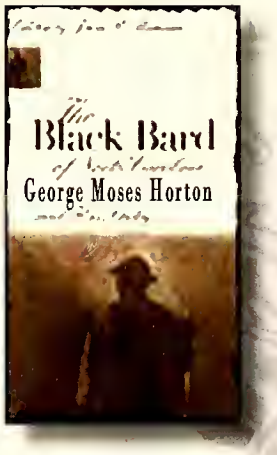
April Showers Bring May Flowers **• Tuesday • April 17 • 4 - 5 pm**
Poetry and flowers to plant for mom. All children are welcome! **• Children's Room • Central Library 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046**

African American Poets & the East White Oak Community Celebrate National Poetry Month **• Tuesday • April 17 • 6:30 pm** • Celebrate with guest poets from our community including Evelyn Fuller Hayden, Clement Mallory, Lee Johnson, Lisa Bond and others. Door prizes and refreshments. **• East White Oak Community Center • 1801 10th St • For info, call Linda T. Williams, 373-5810.**

Poetry Fun 101: Haiku **• Wednesday • April 18 • 3:30 pm**
Learn about this short but sweet poetry form and make a little accordion book for your little poems. Both haiku and accordion-fold books have a long tradition in Asian culture! **• Glenwood Branch • 1901 W. Florida Street • 297-5000**

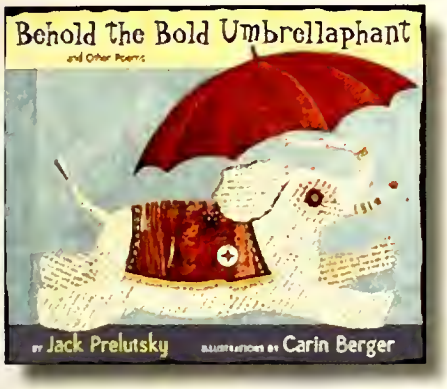
Words Knitted, Crocheted & Stitched **• Thursday • April 19 • 6:30 pm** Hear poems written by our McGirt-Horton Branch Knitters, who have written and knitted poems together in celebration of National Poetry Month. Families invited. Light refreshments served. **• McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue 373-5810**

Poetry and Song with Kindermusik **• Friday • April 20 • 1 pm**
Children's Room • Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046



Celebrate George Moses Horton & James McGirt's Poems & Literary Writing
Saturday • April 21 • 1-3 pm Clement Mallory will read the poem entitled ***Love*** written by James E. McGirt and talk about these library namesakes. Pizza will be served.
McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue • 373-5810

Clerihew **• Saturday • April 21 • 1- 3 pm**
Learn about this form of poetry that's as unusual and fun as its name and create clerihews as a group and on your own. School age children. **• Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046**



Jack Prelutsky Poetry Day!
Monday • April 23 • 4 - 5 pm
Celebrate poetry by Jack Prelutsky, the first American Children's Poet Laureate. School-age Children. **• Children's room • Central Library •219 N. Church Street • 373-2046**

Family Night At Hemphill **• Monday • April 23 • 6:30 pm**
Karen Jo Shapiro, local author and poet, will share her latest poetry picture book, ***I Must Go Down To The Beach Again.*** This delightful collection of poetic parodies takes 23 classic poems and gives them a kid-sized twist.
Hemphill Branch • 2301 W. Vandalia Road • 373-2925

Poetry & Art: Natural Companions **• Monday • April 23 • 5 - 6 pm**
Wednesday, April 25 • 3 - 5 pm & Thursday, April 26 • 4 - 6 pm
Poetry and art are natural companions. Come to the ArtQuest Studio at Hemphill during this week's Art Discovery to discover how these two creative outlets join in harmony through the use of books, art materials and fun explorative projects. **• Hemphill Branch • 2301 W. Vandalia Road • 373-2925**

Poetry Adventure **• Wednesday • April 25 • 3:30 pm**
Draw a poem, write a poem, taste a poem, bring your own poem, act out a poem and meet a poet – children's author Karen Jo Shapiro. Grades K-5 **• Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library • 1420 Price Park Road • 373-2923**

Poetry Fun 101: Clerihew **• Wednesday • April 25 • 3:30 pm**
Learn about this form of poetry that's as unusual and fun as its name and create clerihews as a group and on your own. **• Glenwood Branch • 1901 W. Florida Street • 297-5000**

McGirt-Horton Branch Community Poets **• Thursday • April 26 • 6:30 pm**
This will be the family night program and the culmination of the month of poetry events. Bring a poem to share. Hear poems read by special guests from the McGirt-Horton community, who are certain to inspire you to keep writing. Clement Mallory will be the moderator. Families invited. Light refreshments.
McGirt-Horton Branch • 2509 Phillips Avenue • 373-5810

Grow a Poem! **• Saturday • April 28 • 3 pm**
Poetry for School-age Children. **• Children's Room • Central Library • 219 N. Church Street • 373-2046**

Family Night Poetry **• Monday • April 30 • 6:30 pm**
Bring your favorite poem to read or recite - one you've read or one you've written. We'll write and illustrate self-portrait poems. **• Hemphill Branch • 2301 W. Vandalia Road 373-2925**

www.poetrygso.org

Poetry GSO 2007

The Power Of Poetry

From The Poetry GSO Director

Dear Friends,
Since we launched Poetry GSO, many folks have told me that after attending a couple of programs, they have become "poetry converts." I'm always happy to hear this but never surprised, because our Poetry GSO Planning Team consciously selects poets and programs that we hope will appeal even to those who say that they don't like or "just don't get" poetry.

We have a great 2007 Poetry GSO lineup. It includes poetry workshops that focus on healing, humorous poetry readings, poetry programs in art galleries, poetry that deals with social issues, fun programs for kids, and so much more!

Please help us continue to make "converts." All you have to do is read through this calendar, circle all of the programs that sound interesting to you, and then invite a friend or two to join you. It won't cost a thing because all the programs are free, thanks to some generous grants from the Greensboro Public Library Foundation, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina Humanities Council and the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library.

Steve Sumerford
Poetry GSO Director

Happy Poetry Month!

The 4th Annual High School Poet Laureate Project

The 4th Annual High School Poet Laureate Project is underway. Through a partnership with the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library and the Guilford County School Media Specialists, poetry contests are held at each high school. Three semi-finalists are selected from each school. Their works are judged, and one finalist is awarded the title of Poet Laureate of his or her school. The judge for this year's laureates is Professor Jennifer Grotz, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The project is coordinated by media specialist Kate Cummings. The works of the past projects are available at www.poetrygso.org. And don't miss the chance to hear these young poets read their poetry. • April 15 • 3 pm • Greensboro Historical Museum • 130 Summit Avenue • 373-3636

Poetry in the Workplace

In 2006, we launched a Poetry in the Workplace project. This year the workshops will be co-sponsored with Action Greensboro. If you know of a workplace that would like to host one of these free workshops for employees, contact Martha Thomas at 373-4559.

Finding New Audiences

Developing New Audiences for Poetry is the theme of a Poetry GSO project funded by the NC Arts Council. We will match local and other NC poets with local organizations, reading groups and businesses. If you know of a group that would like to be matched with a poet, contact Steve Sumerford at 373-3636. We will provide groups with copies of poems by a poet with whom they share some common interests. In some cases, the poet will be able to offer a reading for the group.

www.poetrygso.org

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